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Letter dated 4 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letters dated 12 and 13 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations (S/2018/337 and S/2018/350), and pursuant to my letter dated 12 April 2018 (S/2018/343) regarding a number of baseless allegations by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have the honour to draw your attention to the following.

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the allegations made by Saudi Arabia with regard to the transfer of arms and missiles in contravention of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). These baseless allegations are aimed at distracting the international community from their widespread war crimes and atrocities against the oppressed people of Yemen. As the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Security Council on 17 April 2018, "Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Three quarters of the population — more than 22 million people — urgently require some form of humanitarian help, including 8.4 million people who are struggling to find their next meal." This humanitarian catastrophe is a direct result of the Saudi-led coalition actions and indiscriminate aerial attacks, the inhumane air, land and sea blockade and "using the threat of starvation as an instrument of war" as confirmed by various United Nations bodies and independent reports.

In a recent airstrike by a Saudi-led coalition on a wedding in the northern province of Hajja on 22 April 2018, more than 80 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed or injured. Those from neighbouring villages who rushed to help the people injured by the first attack were also targeted by a subsequent attack. This is just one example out of several thousand similar cases where indiscriminate aerial attacks against innocent civilians exacerbated their suffering. The deliberate, widespread and systematic attacks directed against the civilian population and targets over the past three years by Saudi Arabia and the Saudi-led coalition are war crimes and crimes against humanity; their perpetrators must be held accountable for their atrocities.

Acts and omissions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to the situation in Yemen defy and often blatantly violate several Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2014 (2011), 2140 (2014), and 2216 (2015), and the presidential statements of 29 August 2014, 22 March 2015, 25 April 2016, 15 June 2017, 9 August 2017 and 15 March 2018, as well as the United Nations Charter and applicable international law. The United Nations, its Member States and the international

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community have a critical and imminent responsibility to put an end to these systematic violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by the Saudi-led coalition, sustainably lift the inhumane blockade of Yemen and provide the urgently needed humanitarian assistance to all of the people from south to north.

The Saudi interventionist and warmongering policy in the region, including Yemen, is threatening international peace and security. Their hostile attitude and explicit threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran are reaching unprecedented levels and require due attention from the Security Council in order to prevent another crisis in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates the need for the peaceful resolution of the crisis in Yemen and firmly believes that only a comprehensive and inclusive Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue can put an end to this catastrophic humanitarian situation. To pave the ground for such negotiations, military attacks shall be stopped and the blockade of Yemen needs to be lifted.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative